

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-4, 7, 8, 14-17, 20, 21, 25 and 28-30 stand rejected, with claims 11, 31 and 32 allowed and claims 5, 10 and 18 objected to but indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended claims 2, 3, 7, 10, 14 and 25 and cancelled without prejudice claims 4, 5, 17 and 18. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14-16, 20, 21, 25 and 28-32 are the only claims remaining in this application.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5, 10 and 18 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 11, 31 and 32 is very much appreciated. Applicants have included the subject matter of claims 4 and 5 into independent claim 25, thereby placing it in condition for allowance. Claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of claim 4 and claim 25 from which it previously depended. Claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 17 and 18, rendering it allowable as well.

Accordingly, claims 10, 14, 25, 31 and 32 are all independent claims which have either been allowed or to be amended to include the subject matter of previously indicated allowable claims.

Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 15, 16, 20, 21 and 28-30 all depend from one of these allowable claims.

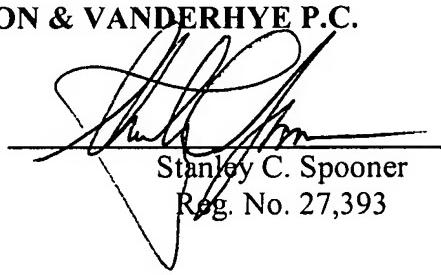
Accordingly, in view of the above, the only claims remaining in the application, i.e., claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14-16, 20, 21, 25 and 28-32 are either allowable independent claims or depend from allowable independent claims. As a result, these amendments obviate any further rejection of claims 2-4, 7, 8, 14-17, 20, 21, 25 and 28-30 previously rejected under 35 USC §103 over Guzman in view of Merz. Accordingly, the only claims remaining in the application are claims indicated as allowed or indicated as containing allowable subject matter or claims depending therefrom.

'GRIFFITH et al.
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Having responded to all objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Official Action, it is submitted that remaining claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14-16, 20, 21, 25 and 28-32 are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. In the event the Examiner is of the opinion that a brief telephone or personal interview will facilitate allowance of one or more of the above claims, he is respectfully requested to contact applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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